

Message Text

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12

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CG-00 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11

AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3070

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, CA

SUBJECT: PRESS ITEM: LAW OF THE SEA

1. MARCH 21 OTTAWA CITIZEN PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON LOS MATTERS ENTITLED "NATIONS BICKER OVER WHO OWNS SEA RICHES." FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF ARTICLE (FULL TEXT BY POUCH TO EUR/CAN).

2. AFTER REFERRING TO FORTHCOMING CARACAS CONFERENCE, ARTICLE SAYS "INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS SINGLE LOS CONFERENCE WILL FAIL TO RESOLVE THE MULTIPLE CONTROVERSIES FACING IT. FURTHER MEETINGS WILL BE NECESSARY PERHAPS STRETCHING ON FOR YEARS..." IN SUPPORT OF ASSERTION, ARTICLE QUOTES SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICE INTERVIEW WITH ALAN BEESLEY, CANADA'S MARITIME LAW EXPERT AND PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA: "IT WILL TAKE A MINOR MIRACLE TO GET A FINAL LEGAL CONVENTION FROM THE CARACAS CONFERENCE. WE MAY GET A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, A DECLARATION IN GENERAL TERMS WITHOUT SPECIFIC DETAILS. I WOULD LOOK UNCLASSIFIED

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UPON THAT AS A KIND OF FAILURE." BEESLEY APPARENTLY SEES

THE 200-MILE WIDE "ECONOMIC ZONE AND 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS "WILL
DEPEND
UPON THE EXTENT OF CONTROL WHICH COASTAL COUNTRIES DEMAND"
AND THEN GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY
OFFSHORE MINERALS, DEFENSE CONSIDERATIONS AND POLLUTION.
WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER POINT, AMBASSADOR BEESLEY IS
QUOTED AGAIN AS SAYING, " ANYONE WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAS TO BE WORRIED NOW THAT
PEOPLE MIGHT JUST MAKE A SETTLEMENT OVER FISH AND MINERALS
AT THE EXPENSE OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS."

4. IN CONCLUSION, ARTICLE REPORTS ON "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT...
REACHED LAST FALL THAT SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS AT THE CARACAS
MEETING WILL BE DECIDED BY CONSENSUS..."
PORTER

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